
Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

TRAINERS GUIDE

Human Rights

**Developed by the Office of Quality Assurance (QA)
Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)**



September 2003

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Introduction

We all have rights as citizens of the United States. People with developmental disabilities who receive services/ supports from the state Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) also have other human rights. These rights are included within the laws of Rhode Island and the licensing regulations of the Department of MHRH.

This *Trainers Guide* was developed by the Office of Quality Assurance (QA), DDD. It is intended to help people with disabilities to have a better understanding of their constitutional and human rights.

Use this Guide booklet to talk with people about their rights and to help them to learn more about their human rights.

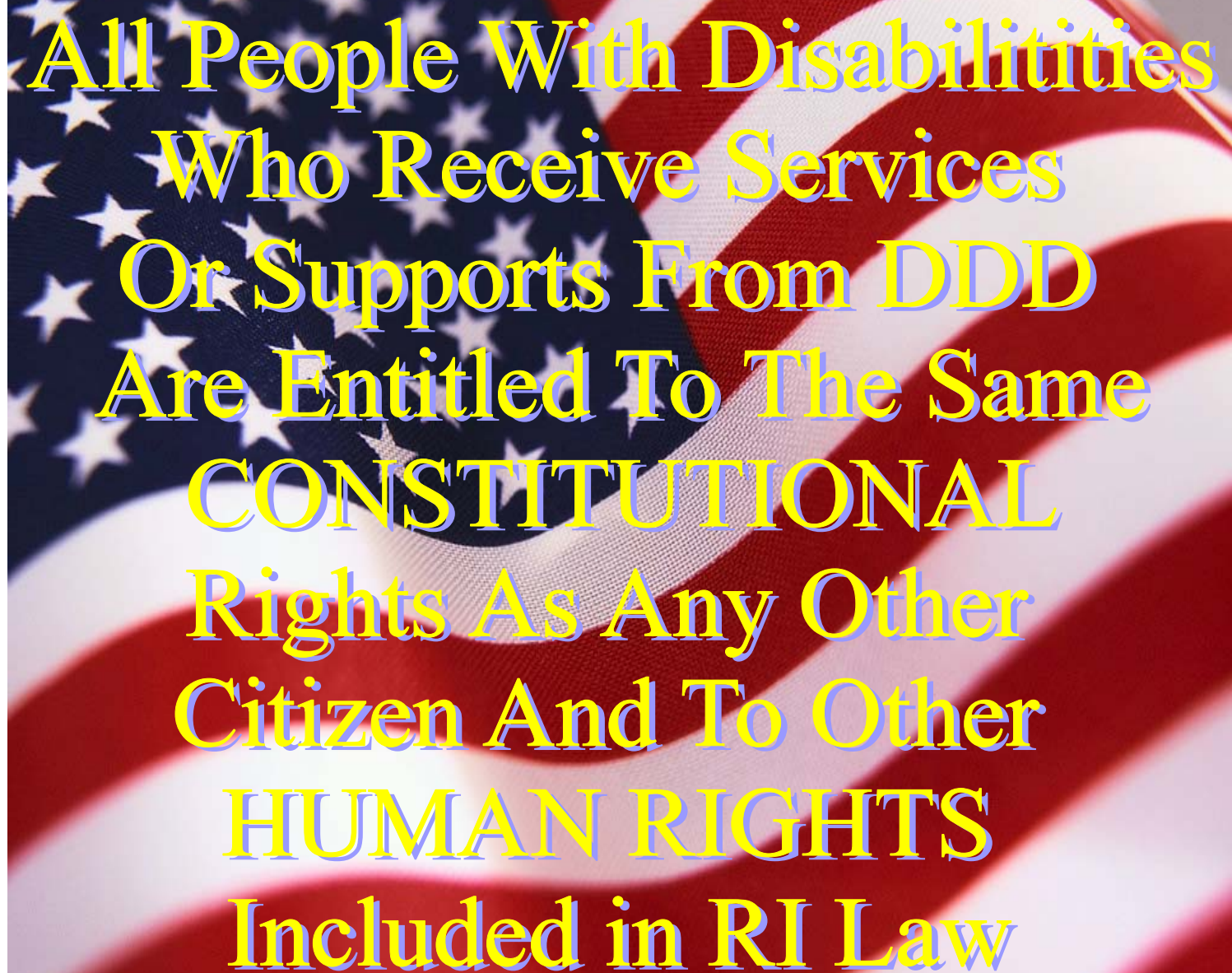
The Office of Quality Assurance (QA) is part of the state Division of Developmental Disabilities. The Office of QA is established in Rhode Island Law. The purposes of the Office of QA are:

- To promote the legal and civil human rights of people with developmental disabilities
- To conduct or coordinate investigations on reports of abuse
- To assure the quality of services/supports provided by agencies/individuals

To contact the Office of Quality Assurance you can call:



401-462-2629

The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the red and white stripes and the blue field with white stars. The flag is draped and wavy, creating a sense of movement.

All People With Disabilities
Who Receive Services
Or Supports From DDD
Are Entitled To The Same
CONSTITUTIONAL
Rights As Any Other
Citizen And To Other
HUMAN RIGHTS
Included in RI Law

You Have the Same Constitutional Rights as Anyone

1. The Right to **Vote**

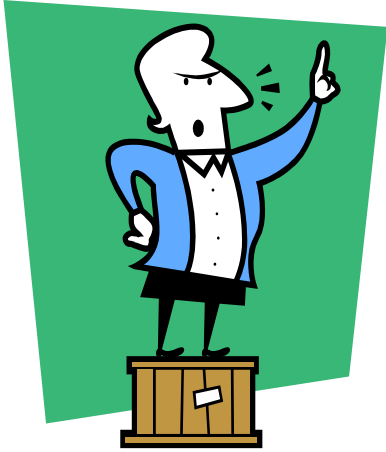


2. The Right to **Equal Protection**
under the law...to have a
lawyer represent you



3. The Right to have **Freedom**
of **Speech** ...to share your
opinions and views

4. The Right to **Practice**
your **Religious Beliefs**



“Bill of Rights”

All people with disabilities who receive services/supports funded through MHRH are entitled to the following rights:

- You have the same constitutional rights as anyone else.
- You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- Services/supports should be explained to you so that you can understand them.
- You can see any and all files related to you.
- You have the right to plan your own life, decide what kinds of services/supports you need and want and choose who you want to help develop your plan.
- You have the right to privacy.
- You have the right to be protected from abuse, neglect and mistreatment.
- You can make a complaint or file a grievance for things you are unhappy with, with the agency you receive services from.
- You can question the process for any decision relating to your eligibility or funding from a state agency by filing an appeal.

Developed by the People's Advocacy Council (PAC)...
Advisory to the Director of MHRH

Revised October 2000

You Have the Right to be Treated With Dignity and Respect.





Steve's Porcelli's Comments



My name is Steven Anthony Porcelli. I was born on June 13th 1963. When I was born I had a birth defect, which was a cleft palate lip. Which had to be corrected by surgery. Since then I had to have more surgery. All was related to the cleft palate lip. When I was born I was also diagnosed with chronic organic brain syndrome which meant I had a learning disability. But that learning disability did not stop me from living a normal life and doing the things I wanted to do.

I am a 1982 graduate of North Providence High School. Having a disability does not mean that you can't do what you want to do. Having a disability means that if you put your mind to it you can do anything that you want to do!

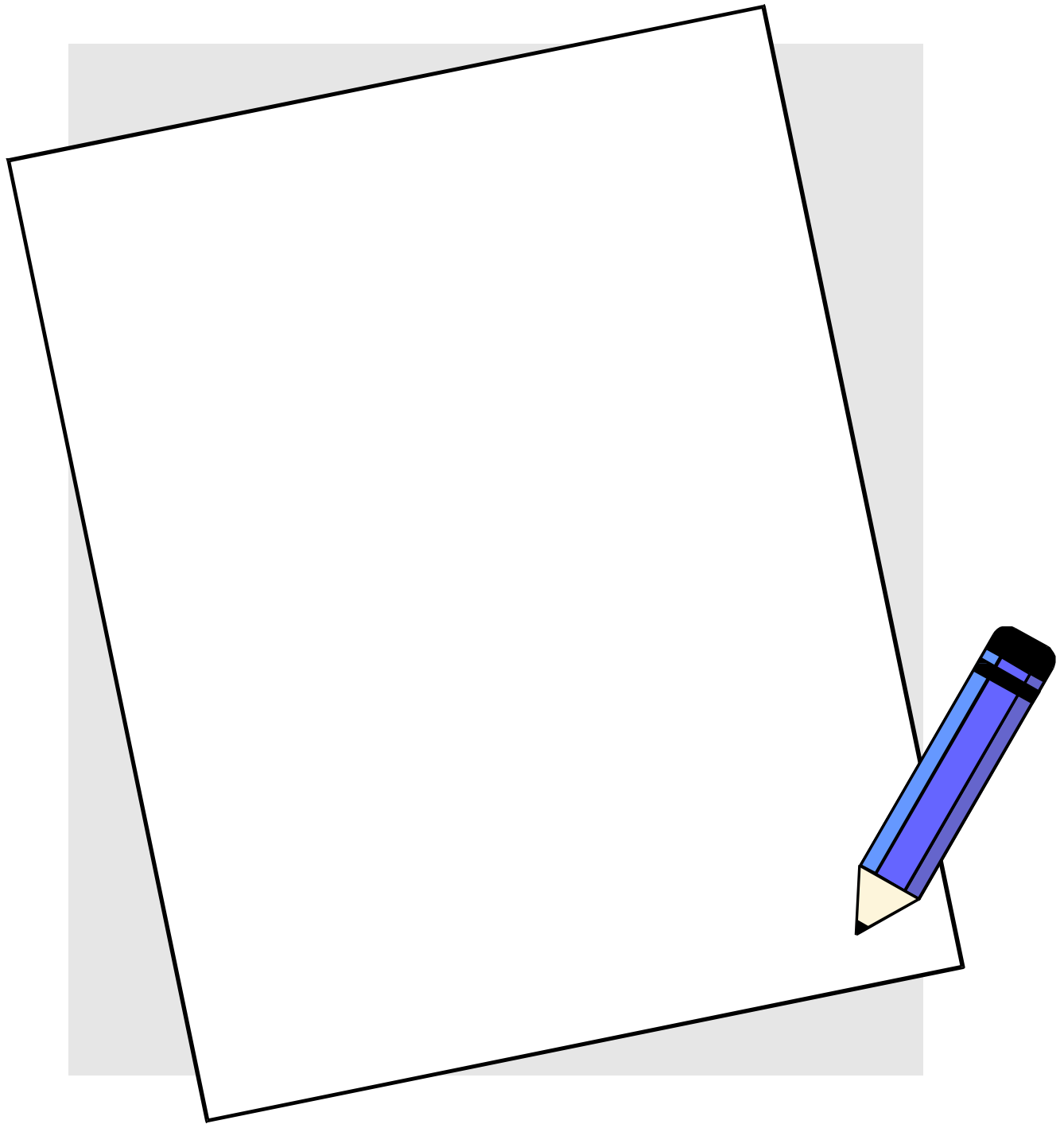
40 years later, I thank God that I was able to do some great things. For instance, I work at Pandora's Products, and am a member of the TTP Human Rights Committee as well as the editor of the TTP Monthly Newsletter. I am also a member of some statewide committees run by the Division of Developmental Disabilities such as the Statewide Quality Consortium and I am on the Employment and Health and Safety Committees.

Additionally, I work for the Quality Assurance Unit as a Resource Specialist with the CQI Project and Human Rights Training. I am also a lector and a youth advisor at St. Anthony's Church in North Providence.

People ask me for my opinion and treat me like anyone else. So what I'm trying to say is no one has the right to put us down if we have a disability.

Having disabilities did not stop me from doing what I wanted to do and I hope it won't stop you either.

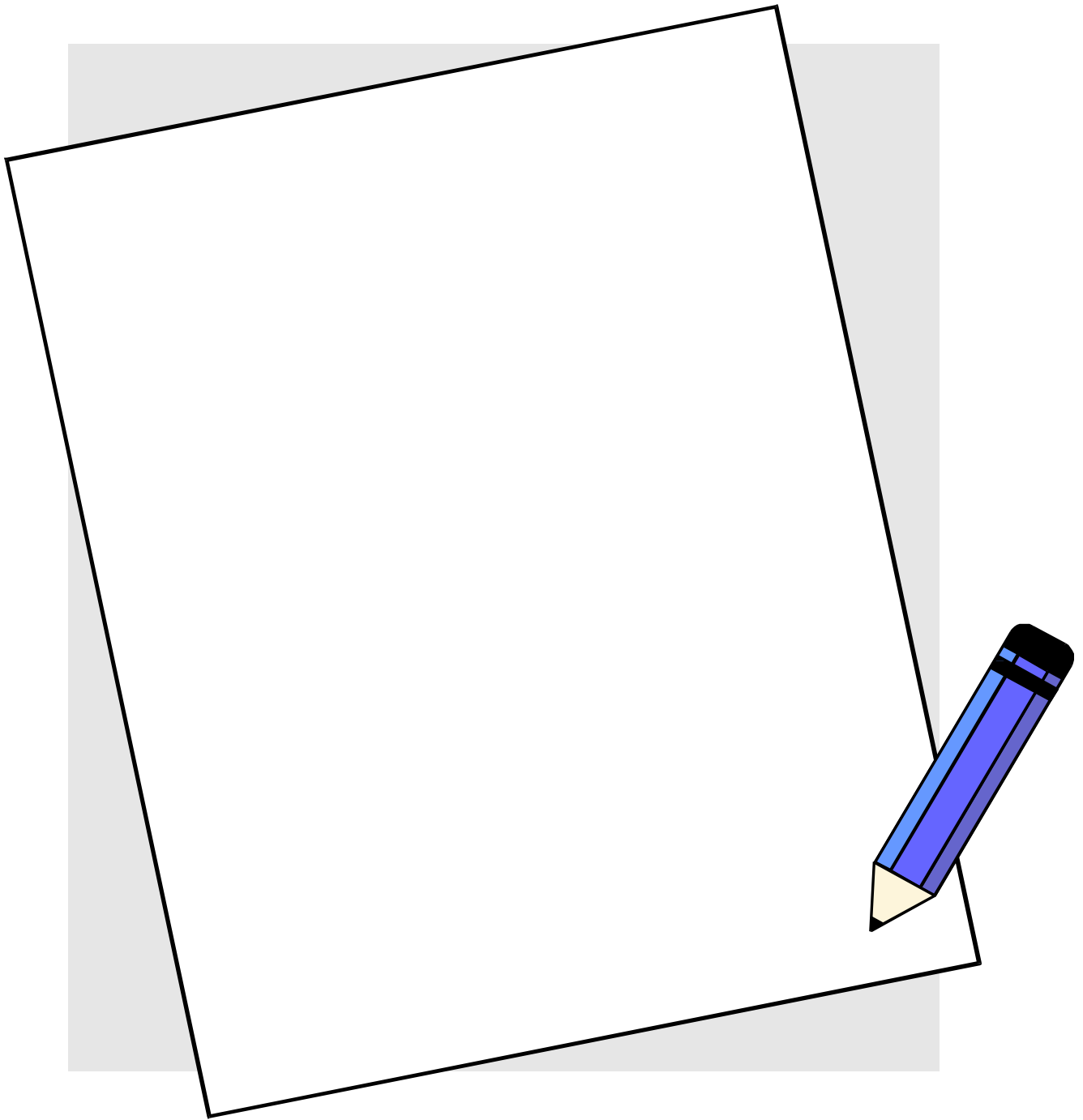
What does this right mean to you?
What is important to you?



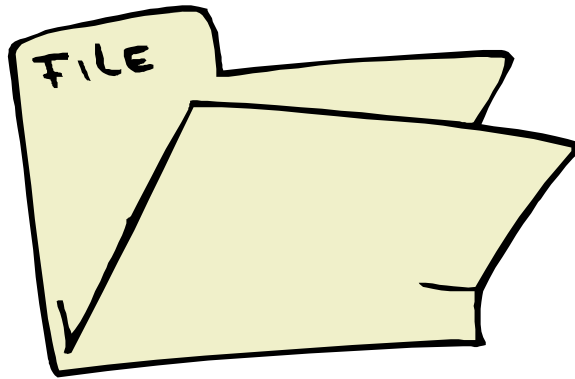
Services/Supports should be explained to you so that you can understand them.

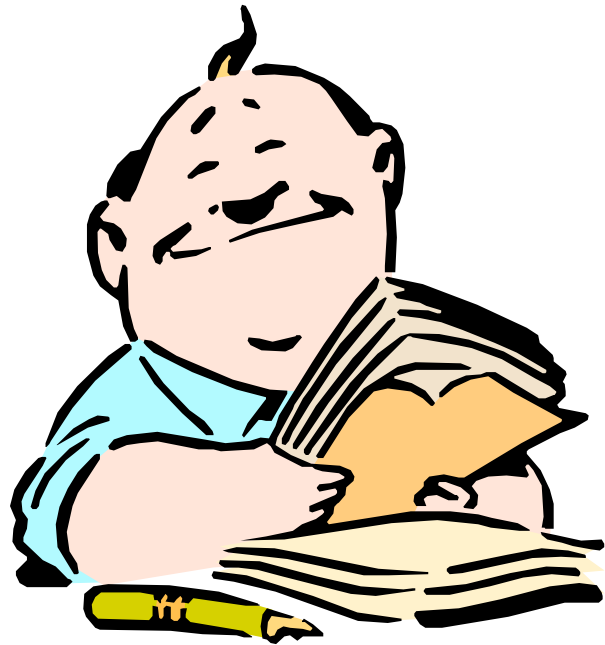
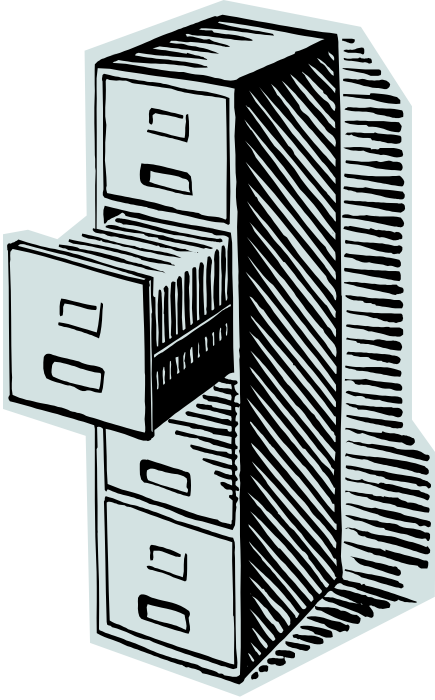


What does this right mean to you?
What is important to you?



You Can See Any and All Files
Related to You.





Chris's Vecchia's Comments

I was at a party in the main office at Refocus.

My supervisor is Mary Ann. During a conversation I was having with her she mentioned that I had a case of Cerebral Palsy.

This was news to me!

This began to bug me. This label of Cerebral Palsy.

All of a sudden I had it! I kept questioning Mary Ann.

She said it was in MY FILE. And that it is usually not detected at a young age, and in my case it was very mild. I left it alone for several

months. But it began to bug me, more and more. ... I started making phone calls to people who had files on me.

Each person I called said it was not in the files. I even tried to find the Doctor I had as a child.

I even called Quality Assurance at the Division of Developmental Disabilities to see what I could do about this!

I talked to my counselor, who found one reference from St. Joseph's Hospital.But, it did not say where this diagnosis came from.

I even talked to my own Doctor who said he would refer me to a Neurologist.

The Neurologist called me back. He wanted my records from the Doctor I had as a child.

Before the conversation with Mary Ann, I never knew anything about this diagnosis.

I made an appointment to look through my files at Re-Focus.

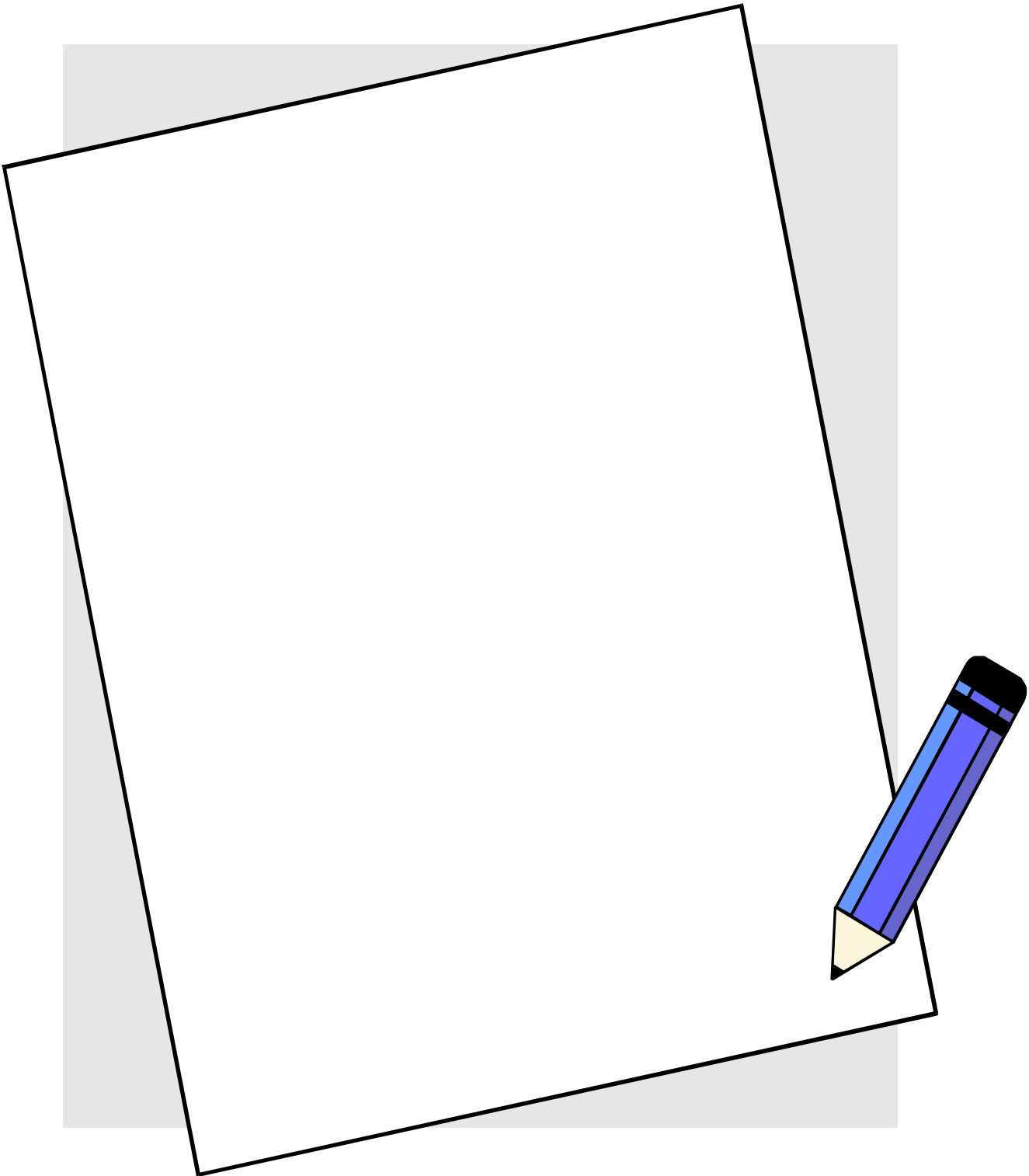
We came to an understanding that since we could not determine how this diagnosis got into my record that in the future it would not be used on my Inter-Agencies.

It felt good that after all the talking and calling I at least got something done about it!

You have the right to see information in your files. Sometimes the information is not correct. And if this happens you can do something about it to make it correct.

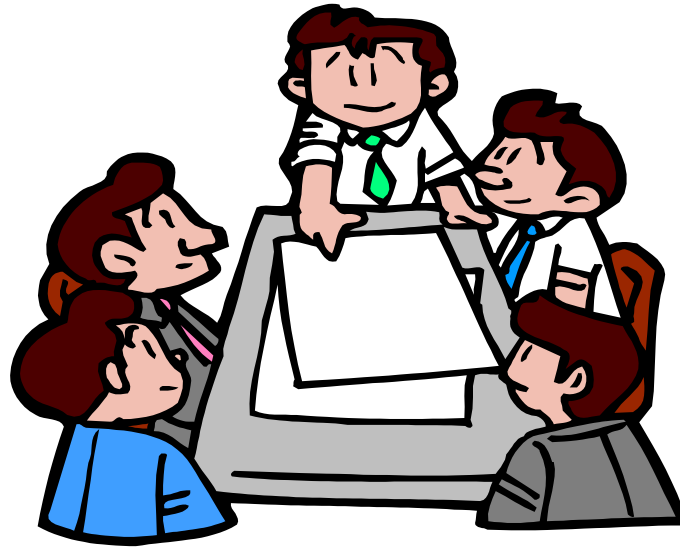
That is your right!

What does this right mean to you?
What is important to you?



You Have the Right to Plan Your Own
Life, Decide What Kinds of Services/
Supports You Need and Want and
Choose Who You Want to Help Develop
Your Plan







Deanne Gagne's Comments

I would like to talk about the right to DEVELOP YOUR OWN PLAN.

First and foremost, if it is your planYOU need to be there!

To plan your life you need to think about what's important to you. You have to say what's important to you. For me school is an important thing and that I have transportation to get there. It is making sure I have the support I need to live in my own house, things like cleaning, shopping, and going places I need to go. Staff help me with this. I also have PT. Things that you want and are important in your life need to be in your plan.

You have to focus on WHAT is important to you! You need to think about WHO you want to help you. There are a number of agencies for you to choose. You have to find the one that fits you. This is your choice! I choose who would help me. UCP is the agency I use to get the help I need.

The planning meeting is WHEREVER I want it to be located. One time I had my meeting at a restaurant and once at my home. I decide WHO will be there. I call people and ask them to come.

‘It’s a planning meeting for what I want to achieve for the upcoming year. It is important for you to come to this meeting. You are an important part of why I do the things I do. I want you to come.’

For YOUR planning meeting you get to decide who you want to come...anyone you like such as a friend, family, one of the people who help you—you get to choose who should come. I invite the staff who work with me because they are an important part of almost everything I do!

The MOST IMPORTANT THINGS you want should be in your plan. I get to decide what’s in my plan because it is *all about me!* You need to make the decision on what is included in your plan.

Think about what you want to accomplish in your life. That is what you should put in your plan.

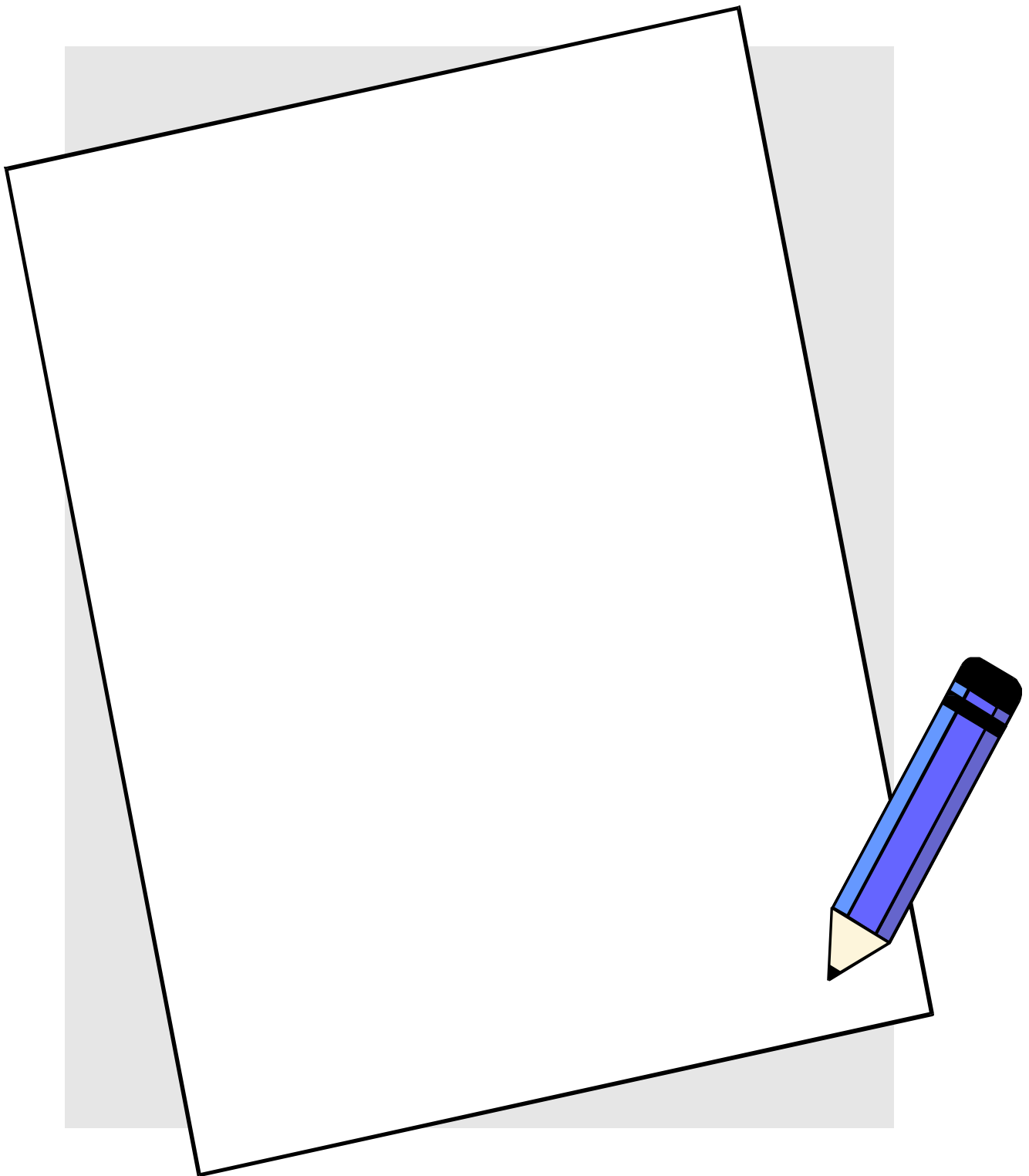
After the planning meeting is over the plan gets written up and I look at it. If I don’t agree I talk some more to Kristen, who is my staff coordinator, and we sit down together to re-write the plan. If I like the plan then I sign it and then it goes to DDD.

I can’t stress enough how important it is for people to be at your meeting that you want.

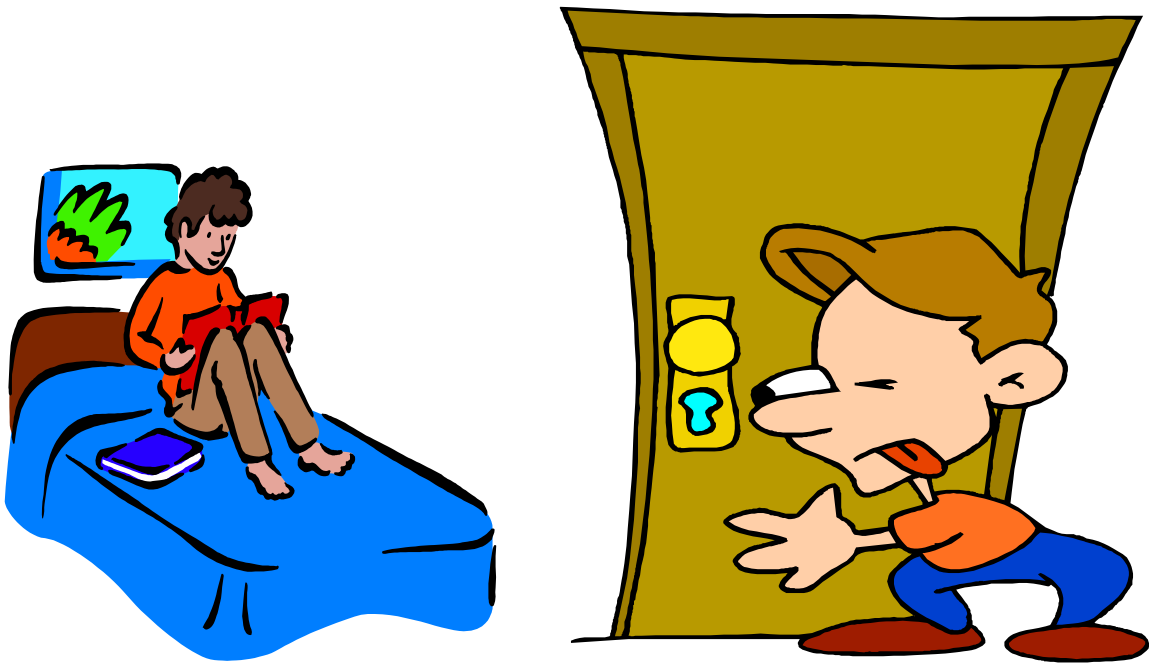
THIS IS YOUR LIFE!

You should have say in what happens.

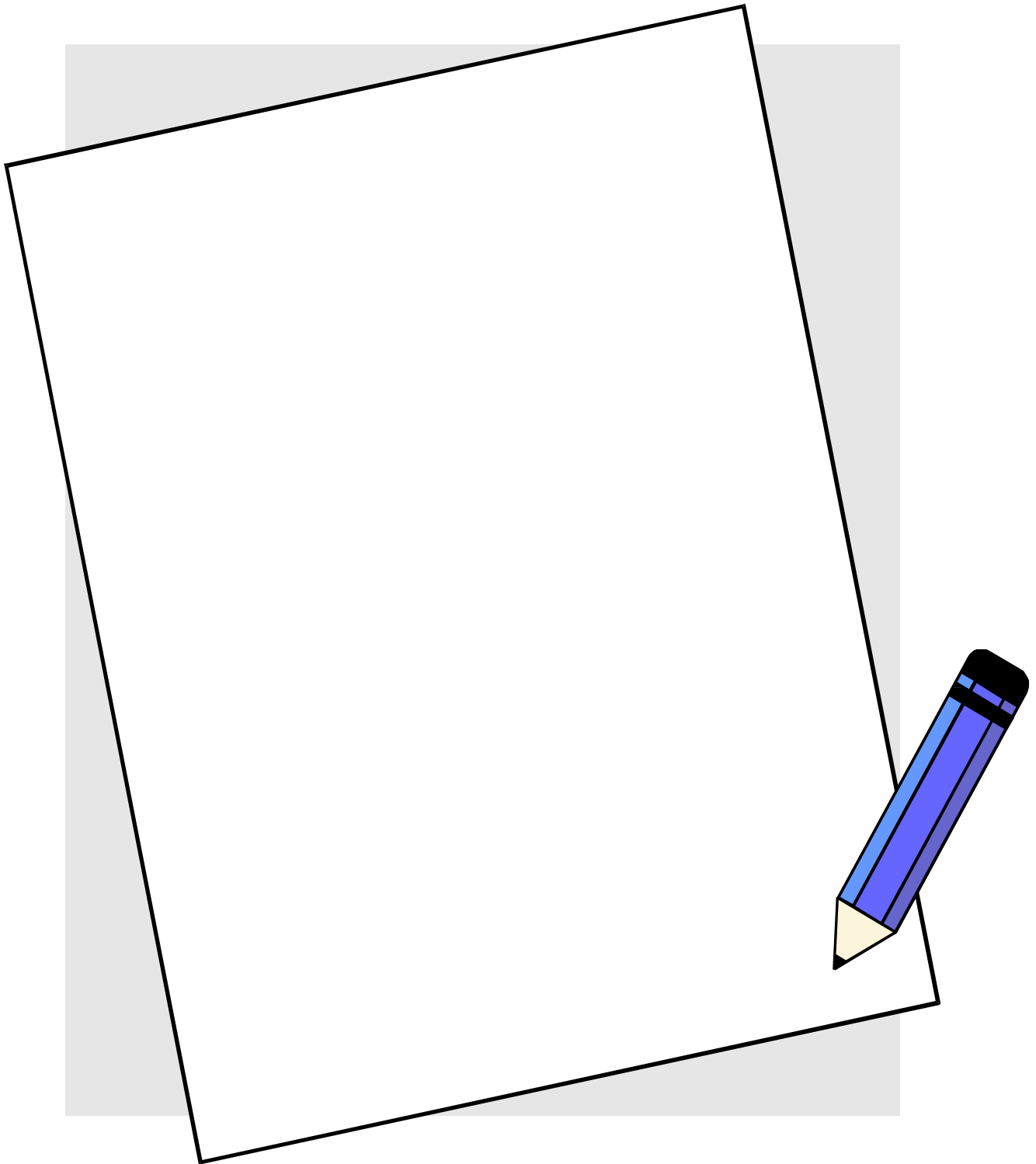
What does this right mean to you?
What is important to you?



You Have The Right To Privacy.



What does this right mean to you?
What is important to you?



You Have the Right to Be Protected From Abuse, Neglect and Mistreatment.





Chris Craddy's Comments

I went from living at Ladd School and working in a workshop to living in my own apartment and working on my own. I wish my mom and dad could have seen what I have accomplished but I know they are smiling down on me. I am very busy, but that is what I like.

I have spoken several times in front of councilmen and when I was twenty-eight years old, I went to Washington DC to speak about how bad life was living in an institution and how my life had changed since I started living in a group home. I explained how every individual has the right to live in the community and not in those awful institutions. I continued this mission throughout my life and will continue to work to improve the lives of others with disabilities.

This part is very hard to talk about but I feel I should because it is part of what happened to me in my life when I was living with a family. Sometimes when I was alone, the son would come home and hurt me. I would beg him not to but he would anyway. I was afraid to tell anyone. I knew they wouldn't believe me.

It continued and I couldn't take it anymore so I told my social worker at the time. We had a meeting at Bess Eaton to discuss it. It was hard to talk about it and still is. The woman said that her son wouldn't do such a thing and there was to be no further discussion about it. I continued to live there but he stopped. I think he was afraid to get caught.

People may not have believed me but at least it stopped because I said something.

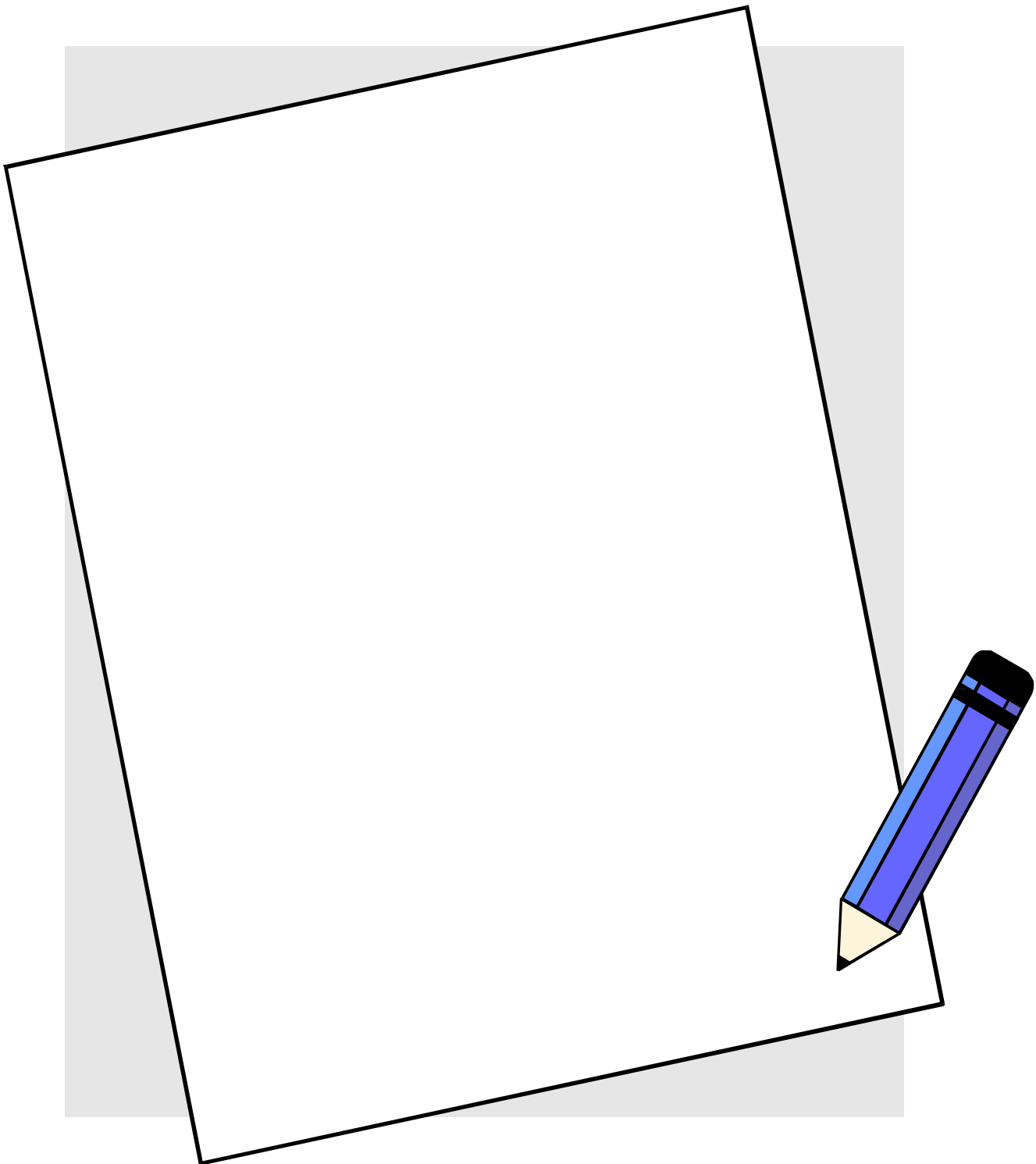
Just recently something bad was done to me. I knew I had to tell someone about it, even though, this person told me not to tell.

I told my staff and they helped me to make a police report. That has stopped this person from doing things that were not right to me and another person who is my friend. I was nervous and afraid to talk to the police, but I am glad I did. I also talked with Nick in the Office of Quality Assurance about what happened. It is important to tell people who will believe you so something can be done to help you.

No one has the right to hurt you in any way!

I am very happy with my life right now. When I was younger, I sometimes thought I would never accomplish my dreams but I knew I could never give up, and I never have.

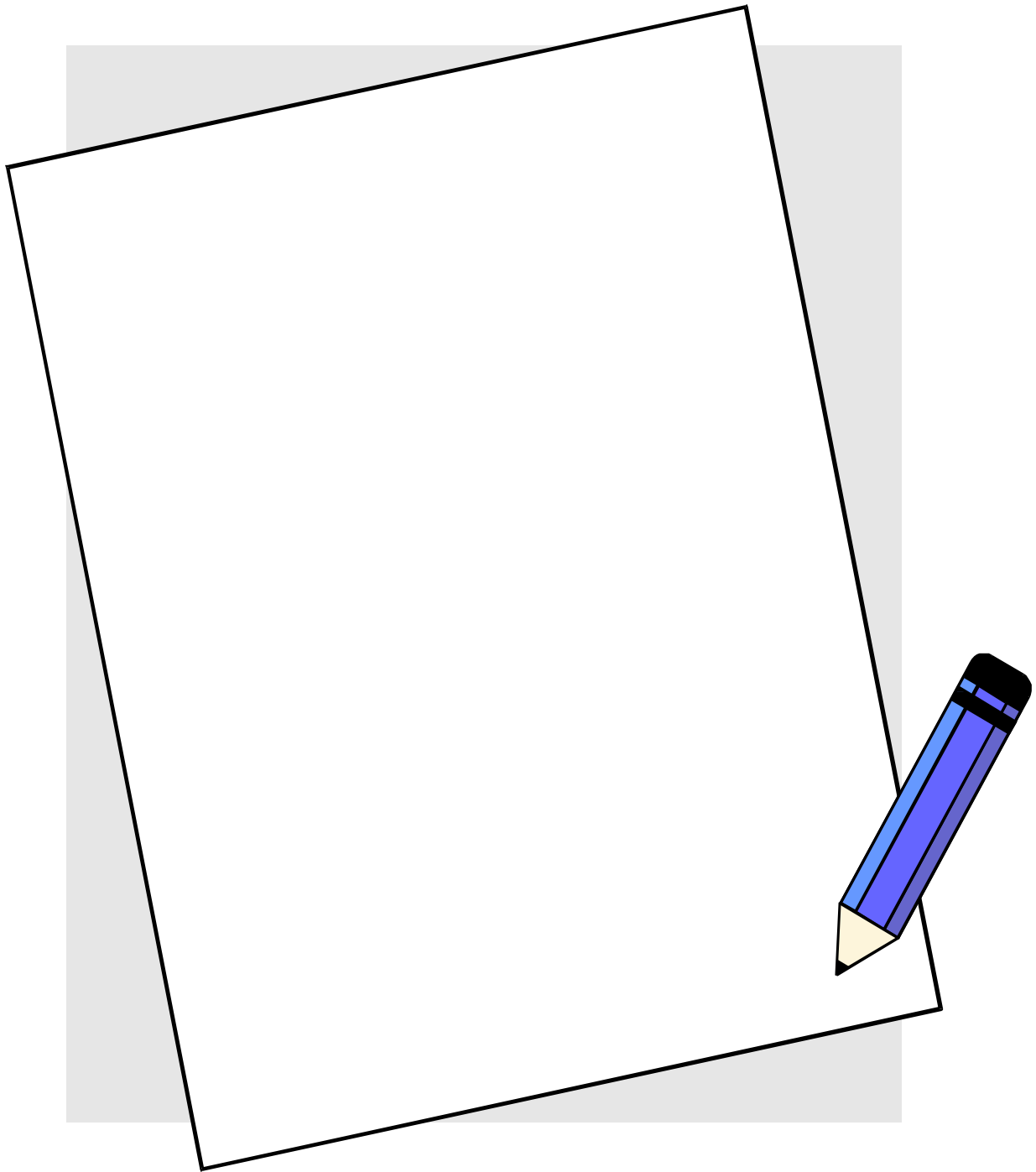
What does this right mean to you?
What is important to you?



You Can Make A Complaint or File a Grievance For Things You Are Unhappy With, With the Agency You Receive Services From.



What does this right mean to you?
What is important to you?



You Can Question the Process For Any Decision Relating to Your Eligibility or Funding From a State Agency By Filing an Appeal.



What does this right mean to you?
What is important to you?

